

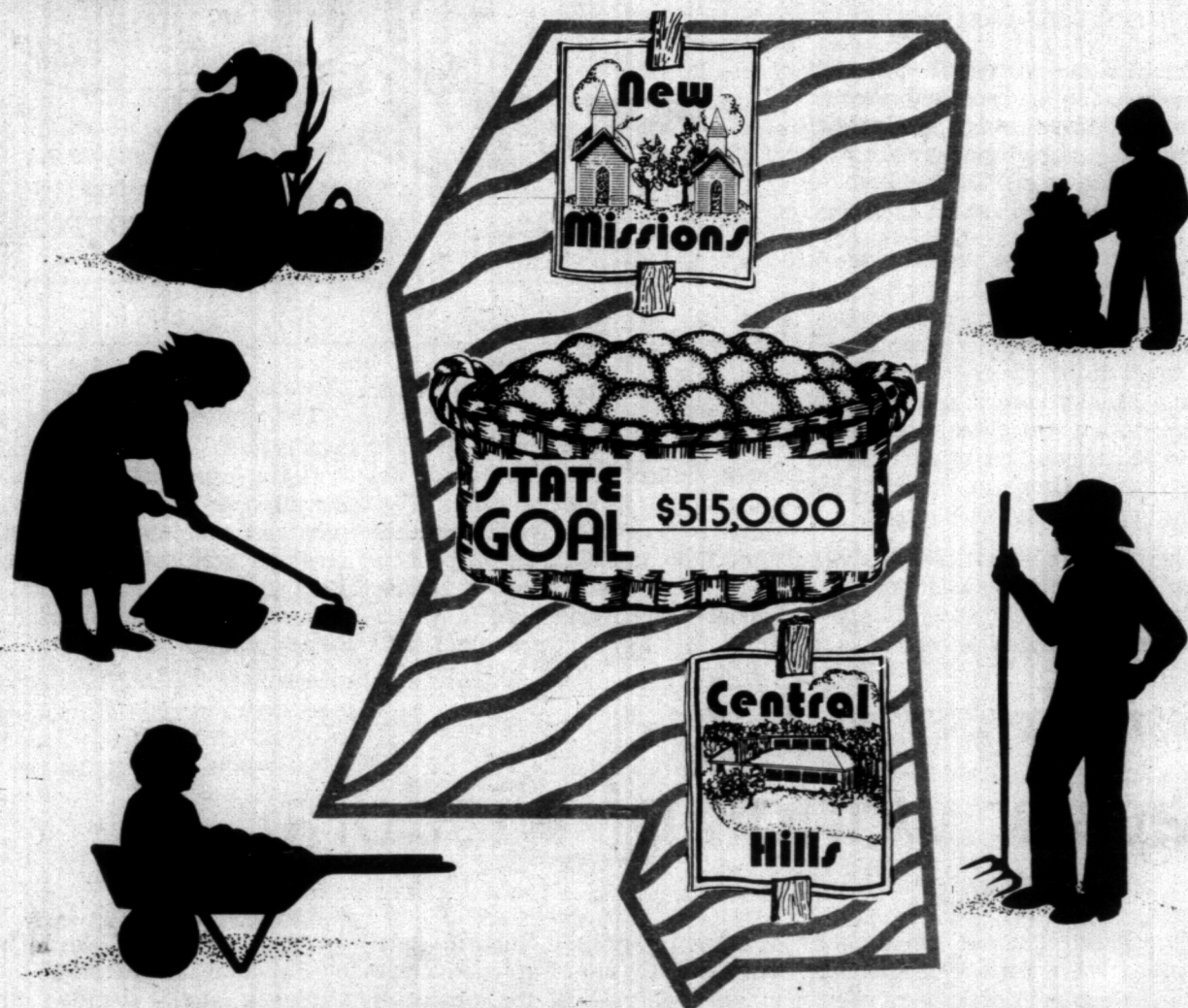
# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 4, 1986

Published Since 1877

## PLANT...PRODUCE... GROW...



**September 14-17, 1986**  
**State Mission Season of**  
**Prayer**

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SEC  
Nashville, Tennessee

— Poster art by Bettye Bingham

## National Bible Week is set for November

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The Bible should be an important part of every person's knowledge, President Reagan said in his message for National Bible Week 1986. The President said, "In the pages of the Bible, the history of Western Civilization begins. Our laws, our sense of justice and charity, our moral standards — all these find their roots in the Bible."

National Bible Week will be celebrated Nov. 23-30, 1986. It marks the 46th consecutive nonsectarian educational observance of Bible Week, which has as its purpose increasing Bible reading and study throughout America.

Reagan said, "The theme for the 46th annual observance is an invitation to knowledge and understanding: 'Bring your mind as well as your heart to the Bible.' All Americans can profit from following this rule, and by observing National Bible Week with reverence and enthusiasm. Such an effort will deepen our understanding of liberty as a right bestowed by God, and of responsibility as a duty fortified by belief in him."

National Bible Week is sponsored by the Layman's National Bible Committee. Since National Bible Week began in 1941, each President has issued a Bible Week message.

## Norwegians give record offering for missions

PORSGRUNN — Most of the 900 persons who attended the annual Conference of the Baptist Union of Norway, held here July 8-13, are more than ever convinced that God answers prayer. The conference offering for foreign missions amounted to 80,000 Nkr (17,840 Sr.), by far the largest single offering in their history.

The startling story is how such a large amount was raised. The Conference this year took place in the shadow of a one million Kroner deficit, due principally to the high costs of development projects in Zaire. Just prior to the meeting, Per Rise, secretary for foreign missions in Norway, expressed an even more urgent concern: "We must have 70,000 Kroner for medicines this summer." "You'll need 10,000 more than that for shipping costs," someone else added. Per's answer brought incredulous remarks from his hearers, who knew the conference offerings of past years never brought in more than 30-40,000 Kroner. "We'll ask God for it," Per said in faith.

The offering was taken and the amount of 80,000 plus was received, bringing a joyful response from the large number of Baptists present, half

of whom were under twenty years of age.

The business sessions were garnished by the music of many youth choirs and instrumental ensembles. The Conference theme, "Growth Through the Will of God," was presented by Kjeld Nielson, pastor of the Andenes Baptist Church. "We must seek and try new ways of evangelizing and achieving growth," said he. "Even some of our own organizations have hindered growth. We must rely on the will of God and listen to what he wants us to do," the message concluded.

Because of the success of the Conference, the economic situation in the Union is much improved, according to Per Arne Jo, of Norway's seminary. However, the Union must find ways to curtail expenses over the next two years, and it must find better ways to encourage giving.

Some 66 churches make up the Union of Norway. There is a shortage of pastors occupying church pulpits: only about forty have their own pastor.

Southern Baptist missionary Roger Newton was presented to the Conference. He will assist in the Union's program of urban evangelism.

## Foreign Board may end medical work in Jordan

By Art Toalston

AJLOUN, Jordan (BP) — Southern Baptist medical work spanning nearly 35 years in Jordan may be coming to an end.

Efforts have been initiated to find a buyer for the Baptist Hospital at Ajloun — perhaps a religious organization or the Jordanian health ministry. A final sale would be approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Hospital trustees hope the sale will be completed by June 30, 1989.

The hospital's board of directors cited "inadequate patient loads, shortage of personnel, and finances" in concurring with the Southern Baptist missionaries in Jordan that the medical work end.

It will be emotionally painful for many Jordanian Baptists, according to Isam Ballenger, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe and the Middle East, and missionary Lois Calhoun, the hospital's director of nursing who retired this year after 15 years of work there.

Ballenger quoted Fowaz Ameisch, president of the Baptist Community of Jordan, as saying, "I understand the necessity of this move with my head, but my heart can't accept it."

Calhoun said, "Jordanian Baptists have a very special feeling for the hospital." The hospital, and thus Baptists, had developed a good reputation throughout the country, she said.

The Baptist Community of Jordan

reported six churches, nine preaching points and 403 members at the end of 1985. Fifty-five baptisms were recorded. Two Baptist schools with elementary and secondary students, one in Ajloun and the other in Amman, the nation's capital, also have earned high marks.

The number of students enrolled last year was 691.

The hospital treated 2,160 inpatients and 11,241 outpatients last year. The number has been declining since a high of 2,908 inpatients in 1977 and a high of 17,884 outpatients the following year. One reason for the downturn is that the number of government hospitals has increased in recent years. Also, the Baptist Hospital's

fees are higher than those charged at government-subsidized facilities.

The Baptist Hospital's capacity was pared down from 50 to 30 beds in 1978. Its nursing school closed after the number of students dropped from a high of 31 in 1974 to three in 1978.

The average inpatient load is 15 to 20, though sometimes all beds are full and, once, just two beds were occupied, Calhoun said.

Retirements of key missionary personnel have not been offset by new appointees. L. August Lovegren, a surgeon, and his wife, Alta Lee, will retire next year. John Roper, another surgeon, and his wife, Ruth, also a physician, will retire within a few years, as will Violet Popp, who super-

vises in-service training of nurses.

No replacements have entered the missionary appointment process, Ballenger said.

The current facility was built in 1975. There are two floors and a basement. Working alongside seven Southern Baptist missionaries are 70 Jordanian doctors, nurses and other staffers.

Southern Baptists began work in Jordan in 1952 when the initial facility was purchased from a British doctor.

"There is a need for a hospital in that area," Calhoun noted. Ajloun is a city of about 6,000 people in northern Jordan.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The home missions dilemma

Peace was narrowly averted during a Home Mission Board meeting a couple of weeks ago. The solution to a problem was within the grasp of both sides of the divided board, and both declined to make use of it.

The issue is over finding a successor to Bill Tanner, the president of the board who has moved from that position to become executive director for Oklahoma Baptists. The board seems to be divided at about 40 to 36, with the fundamentalists having the four vote edge.

With the resignation of Tanner, the chairman of the board, Travis Wiginton, appointed a search committee made up of moderates. This leads one to suppose that Wiginton is also a moderate. But Wiginton has moved to a Hawaii pastorate and had to resign as a board member. With the fundamentalist majority, a fundamentalist, Clark Hutchinson of Marietta, Ga., was elected interim chairman.

All who are reading these lines could just as well have read the stories in earlier issues about how the entire search committee was asked to resign following a meeting by fundamentalist leaders and how all but one, M. A. Winchester, did resign. Winchester said he was duly elected, was capable of serving, and intended to remain.

The first opportunity for a peaceful solution came when the fundamentalist forces asked that some non-voting fundamentalist observers be allowed to meet with the moderate search committee. The chairman of the search committee, Eugene Cotey of Tennessee, said it was not within his power to grant such a request; and he refused. Thereupon the fundamentalists began to search for other avenues of approach. In the meantime, the moderate group thought better of the decision not allow any non-voting observers, and such an offer was made. At that juncture the fundamentalists said the offer came too late, and the entire search committee was asked to resign. So the second opportunity was missed.

For a brief moment each group had within its grasp the possibility of moving toward a peaceful solution to a sticky situation. The moderates refused the fundamentalist request for observers and then changed their minds. Then the fundamentalists refused to listen to the possibility of having observers after their request initially had been denied.

It certainly was a large gap in communications. The hurts that came out of this circumstance will not soon be

forgotten. A new search committee will be appointed, but the search for a new president has been crippled.

The Home Mission Board has a marvelous ministry. Its task of witnessing in the United States is a formidable one, but it is being carried out with ability and dedication. A fine staff is caught in between two factions as they search for ways to carry out the Great Commission.

Our missions board that we elected is involved in charges and counter charges and is somewhat paralyzed at the moment. Which side is right, and which side is wrong? The fact is, there could be a little of both on each side.

So how does one resolve such a dilemma? One doesn't. Only the Lord can handle something such as this. Will he be asked to intervene? That is up to all of us. The members of the Home Mission Board and the staff members have a right to expect all of us to be carrying this matter before the Lord. If we don't, we don't have the right to call ourselves Baptists.

There's a great deal of talk about what a Baptist is and what one isn't. But one thing for sure, Baptists believe in the ability of each of us to

approach the throne as we feel the need.

The need certainly has arisen. The Sunday School Board likewise has had a division in its elected ranks. It involved a request that Board President Lloyd Elder apologize for the publication in *Fact and Trends*, a Sunday School Board periodical, of an address by former president and

Mississippi native James L. Sullivan.

The motion to call for an apology was tabled.

These are tumultuous times. They are beyond our ability to cope. We must rely on the Lord. Is that a strange admission for Southern Baptists?

Perhaps so, and maybe that's what's wrong.

### MEESE COMMISSION RIGHT, DESPITE THE ACLU



THE F.B.I. ESTIMATES THAT LAST YEAR IN THE U.S. RECREATIONAL KILLERS MURDERED 5,000 PEOPLE. MOST OF THEM FED ON PORNOGRAPHY.

## Guest opinion — Mississippi mission . . .

## Our Baptist colleges: worlds of wisdom!

By Chester Swor

Parents and prospective college students themselves are much more concerned in recent years about the academic strength of institutions of higher education, because the academic quality of a college education will be a large factor in post college careers or in admission to graduate and professional schools if post-college education is required for the career.

More than any other factor in determining the academic quality of an institution are its faculty and its learning resources, of which libraries are the centerpiece. Mississippi Baptists can have justifiable pride in the strength of both of those factors in our Mississippi Baptist colleges.

### Faculty Strength

Regardless of buildings and equipment, the quality of classroom instruction will be the determining factor in learning. Years ago, Mark Hopkins was regarded to be the summum bonum of excellent teaching, and someone suggested that teaching at its best had Mark Hopkins at one end of a woodland log and a student at the other end. In short, without

class room, desks, or other purported necessities for conducting classes, the teacher determined the quality of instruction. Here are some inspiring statistics concerning the faculty strength of our Mississippi Baptist colleges:

There are 285 full-time faculty members and 62 part-time or adjunct professors, a teaching personnel of 347.

These faculty members have a total of 802 degrees, undergraduate and graduate.

Of those 802 degrees, 469 are graduate degrees, and of those graduate degrees, 153 are doctorates.

The total number of teaching years of the 347 teachers since they began their individual teaching years is 3,529 years.

In addition to the teaching years, a number of those college teachers have had professional experiences related to the areas in which they are teaching.

The graduate work done by this teaching personnel has been done in more than 40 different institutions in this country and abroad.

Except in unusual cases, the teacher-student ratio is reasonable enough to make possible excellent rapport between teacher and students.

Therefore, we may say without hesitation to parents and to their sons and daughters who may be considering our Baptist Colleges: your academic strength will be safeguarded splendidly in our Mississippi Baptist Colleges.

### Learning Resources

Learning resources, centered primarily in libraries, constitute the second determining factor of developing scholarship. In our day these resources involve not only books but also rich resources in periodicals, tapes, video materials, and a variety of special collections.

In our Mississippi Baptist colleges the libraries contain over 412,000 volumes. 1,700 regularly arriving periodicals, and ever-increasing resources in the media collections. The Mississippi College School of Law library, housed in Jackson, has its own library of 150,000 volumes and a variety of other learning resources.

Nearby municipal libraries are available to our Baptist college students, increasing the wealth of learning resources. All of these resources — on the campuses and in off-campus libraries — are in a constant state of growth in both the number of items available and in new types of resource material.

Worlds of Wisdom? Our Mississippi Baptist Colleges offer to their students such worlds through distinguished faculty personnel and ever-growing wealth of learning resources.

Chester Swor of Jackson is a veteran, popular speaker on college campuses and throughout the nation.

## Number of unwed mothers climbs, but teen birth rate declines

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The number of children born to unwed mothers has climbed to its highest level on record, now accounting for more than 20 percent of all babies born, according to a government study. But birth rates for teens and young women have dropped, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

There were 770,355 births to unwed mothers in 1984, representing a climb of 4 percent from the previous year, although the nation's birth rate was the same in both years. Nationally, unmarried parents accounted for 210 of every 1,000 live births, the highest level recorded since 1940, when such statistics were first gathered.

The study noted a sharp rise in first births among women aged 35 and over, but noted a drop in unwed childbearing among young women. The birth rate for unwed girls ages 15 to 17 dropped from 22.1 to 21.9 births per 1,000 girls from 1983 to 1984, the first decline for the group since 1978.

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## Convention Board dedicates new lodge at Central Hills

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board met at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko Aug. 25, approving a 1987 convention budget, setting a fee schedule for the retreat center's new lodge, and participating in a dedication service for the new lodge. This was the first board meeting presided over by Paul Stevens of Jackson, who had been vice president.

Board president Eddie Hamilton moved to Jackson to become pastor of Oak Forest Church from First Church, Carthage, making him ineligible to continue as president. The convention constitution automatically makes vice president Stevens, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, board president.

The 1987 Cooperative Program budget for Mississippi Baptists suggested by the board is \$19 million, a 2.43 percent hike over that of 1986. Included in that increase is a convention-mandated increase of one half percent to 36.5 percent to SBC Cooperative Program causes outside the state of Mississippi.

This budget, which must be approved by messengers to the November Mississippi Baptist Convention, was approved unanimously by the convention board.

The new lodge at Central Hills, in which the board met, will sleep up to 64 persons and during the off season for Royal Ambassador camping, church groups may use the facilities. Typical fees will be approximately \$21 per person, with meals by the Central Hills staff included. Use of other facilities such as the pool, horseback riding, and canoeing are available for additional fees. A daily registration fee of \$1 will also be charged.

The board approved for convention consideration a request from Mississippi College to pledge as security for a \$2 million loan the facilities of its law school in downtown Jackson.

President Stevens named his appointments to the Committee on Board organization which nominates board members to various committees.

They are Gayle Alexander, chairman; Pat Nowell; Nathan Barber; Schuyler Batson; and Joe Ratcliff. Prior to the full board meeting, the MBCB Executive Committee met and approved Mississippi's participation and cost sharing of a national study of the Cooperative Program, "to sound out what people are really thinking," said Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention board.

Mississippi's share of the cost will be \$4,439. Total cost will be \$80,563. The Executive Committee approved grants of \$2,500 each to First Church, Hickory Flat, whose building burned and to First Church, Columbia, whose educational building burned.

Carlton Jones of Carthage was elected by the Executive Committee to replace Eddie Hamilton and P.J. Scott was elected as chairman of the pastoral-church building aid committee to replace Paul Stevens who is now ex officio on all board committees.

And the Executive Committee approved purchase of an automatic labeling machine for the convention board at a cost of \$2,962.70, and an additional \$500 for automatic transmission for a 1986 Chevrolet Suburban for the disaster relief ministry, totaling its cost at \$16,273.91.

The lodge dedication service was held at the end of the board meeting with Earl Kelly making dedicatory remarks. He recalled sitting in his car with the late M.F. Rayburn who served on the steering committee which developed Central Hills. Kelly, Rayburn and others had just completed touring the land which was to become Central Hills and Rayburn said "None of us can realize the tremendous possibilities that will be

(Continued on page 10)



Participants in the dedication service for the new lodge at Central Hills Baptist Retreat included: Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood director; Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Ray Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville; Hayes Callicutt, Jackson layman; Murray Alexander, Greenville layman; Levon Moore, retired Attala County director of missions; Catherine and Joe Herraney, who supervised volunteers in the construction; and Dan West, Central Hills manager. Lloyd, Callicutt, and Alexander served on the Central Hills development committee which was in existence for 12 years.

## Armed men attempt takeover of Bangladesh goat project

SAVAR, Bangladesh (BP) — A Bangladesh cabinet official was scheduled to visit the Baptist-run development center in Gazipur District in late August to quell trouble that started when a group of armed men tried to take control.

The minister of fisheries and livestock planned his trip to show support and interest in the Southern Baptist project, where goats and ducks are raised for the people of Bangladesh. The minister also hoped his visit would help thwart the efforts of more than 20 local men who have said they intend to run the center themselves.

The men gathered outside of the center several days in July and raised a racket by beating on the houses where hypersensitive ducks are being raised. Then they charged onto the grounds with weapons and ran off

employees. Employees were kidnapped and beaten. Government guards are protecting the center now, and police have apprehended several of the accused men.

One of the center's guards was beaten on his way to work after two men armed with daggers attacked him. A passerby rescued him from what he thought would be certain death in a nearby wooded area.

"The best we can understand, this is a group of men who want soft jobs — no work and full pay — and the right to name at least half the employees of the center," said missionary Jim McKinley of Louisville, Ky., chairman of Southern Baptist work in the nation.

Seven of the men in the mob are former employees who walked off their jobs several months ago. "When

(Continued on page 8)

## Laity urged to use gifts to bring SBC awakening

By Joe Westbury

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — A dream for spiritual awakening in the Southern Baptist Convention came closer to reality as laity from around the nation explored spiritual gifts during a national seminar.

"Do not neglect the gifts that are in you" Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission President James Smith told the group of 200 state and national Brotherhood leaders, evangelism directors, and their spouses at the spiritual preparation retreat in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Spiritual gifts are what motivate you to service. They find fulfillment and development through ministry," Smith said as he encouraged conference participants to cultivate their gifts through service to Christ.

The seminar, sponsored by the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and church training department of the Sunday School Board, laid the groundwork for the 1988 "Year of the Laity" emphasis

in evangelism and discipleship.

The church-year emphasis will begin with nationwide lay renewal weekends. Other opportunities during the year will include personal witness training, lay evangelism schools, discipleship training focusing on priesthood of believers, and training of Sunday School workers in evangelism.

"The 'Year of the Laity' will be a time to affirm the people of God in their role as ministers of reconciliation to the world and to hold them accountable to God for the gifts of ministry he has given to them. The world will not hear the good news unless all the people of God become the announcers of the good news," explained Douglas Beggs, director of the adult department of the Brotherhood Commission.

Robert Hamblin, vice president for the evangelism section of the Home Mission Board, reminded participants all first century Christians were lay people.

(Continued on page 10)



## Annuity Board meets in Jackson

The Southern Baptist Annuity met in Jackson recently as it continued the practice of holding one meeting each year away from its Dallas, Texas, headquarters. Darold Morgan, president of the board, is shown making a presentation. Seated in the audience at right is Bill Sellers, annuity representative

for Mississippi. Also seated on the front row and to Sellers' right is Bev. Tinnin, pastor of First Church, Meridian, as one of two Mississippi trustees on the board. The other trustee, Louis Smith, is on the second row, second from left. Smith is pastor of First Church, Canton.



# Tuition and fees increase at Southern Baptist colleges

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Parents sending their children to Southern Baptist colleges and universities this fall will have to dig deeper into their wallets for tuition and fees. But the situation is worse at other private institutions.

This fall tuition and fees at private institutions will average \$5,793 for four-year schools and \$3,910 at two-year colleges, an eight percent increase, according to figures released by the College Board to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Yet the average cost for Baptist-related institutions will be \$4,019. In fact, only five of 51 Baptist colleges and universities exceed the national average. The average percentage increase, however, at Baptist colleges is almost 10 percent.

The costs are based on tuition and fees only. Room and board are not included.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, said the low average cost for Baptist colleges compared to private schools reflects the historic commitment Baptist educational institutions have made to keep costs affordable.

Following are the 1986-87 tuition and fees and percentage increases at all 51 Baptist colleges and universities.

Alabama — Judson College, \$3,255, 2.5; Mobile College, \$3,284, 11.7; Samford University, \$4,320, 9.8; Arizona — Grand Canyon College, \$3,085, 9.8; Arkansas — Ouachita Baptist University, \$3,450, 9.5; Southern Baptist College, \$2,378, 4.9; California — California Baptist College, \$5,120, 21.2; Florida — Palm Beach Atlantic College, \$4,350, 8.8; Stetson University, \$6,350, 11.4;

Georgia — Brewton-Parker College, \$2,415, 13.4; Mercer University (Macon), \$5,966, 11.2; Shorter College, \$4,030, 8.9; Truett-McConnell College, \$3,060, 18.6;

Kentucky — Campbellsville College, \$3,500, 4.2; Cumberland College, \$3,280, 13.9; Georgetown College, \$4,262, 5.8; Louisiana — Louisiana College, \$2,745, 17.5; Mississippi — Blue Mountain College, \$2,834, 13.4; Mississippi College, \$3,594, 7.3; William Carey College, \$3,070, 10.8; Missouri — Hannibal-LaGrange College, \$3,572, 11.9; Missouri Baptist College, \$3,800, 11.8; Southwest Baptist University, \$4,070, 7.1; William Jewell College, \$4,940, 11.0;

North Carolina — Campbell University, \$5,202, 13.1; Chowan College, \$3,400, 5.6; Gardner-Webb College, \$4,530, 8.9; Mars Hill College, \$4,490, 9.5; Meredith College, \$4,200, 6.9; Wake Forest University, \$6,600, 10.0; Wingate College, \$3,670, 10.5; Oklahoma — Oklahoma Baptist University, \$3,170, 6.9; South Carolina — Anderson College, \$3,880, 13.8; Baptist College at Charleston, \$4,894, 0; Furman University, \$6,656, 10.7; North Greenville College, \$3,500, 9.4;

Tennessee — Belmont College, \$3,350, 8.1; Carson-Newman College, \$4,320, 8.0; Union University, \$3,050, 5.5;

Texas — Baylor University, \$3,970, 8.1; Dallas Baptist University, \$4,300, 10.3; East Texas Baptist University, \$3,300, 16.6; Hardin-Simmons University, \$3,828, 11.7; Houston Baptist University, \$4,014, 4.3; Howard Payne University, \$3,140, 13.8; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, \$3,555, 15.8; Wayland Baptist University, \$3,188, 38.0; and Virginia — Averett College, \$4,650, 10.1; Bluefield College, \$3,460, 23.6; University of Richmond, \$7,575, 5.9; Virginia Intermont College, \$4,375, 4.2.

## Sehested to speak at singles' retreat

Inspirational and motivational speaker, Len Sehested, will be the resource person at the Northeast Singles Retreat jointly sponsored by Alcorn Association, Tate Street Baptist Church, and the single adult ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The sessions will begin on Friday evening Sept. 27 at the Tate Street Church in Corinth and will close at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

The theme of the conference will be "We Really do Need Each Other" with emphasis upon attitude, feelings, relationships, and the power of prayer.

Len Sehested was born in Scotland of Irish Parentage. She lived in Australia after ten years of age and received her early education there. She served as a missionary to India for 13 years before coming to the United States where she earned her

masters degree in psychology and counseling. She was married to the late Herman Sehested, M.D., a Fort Worth physician.

The registration fee of \$5 should be mailed to Single Adult Ministry, Box 530, Jackson, Miss 39205. The Saturday luncheon will be complimentary. Participation in the retreat is not limited by geography or denominational affiliation.

## Book Reviews

**PEANUT BUTTER FAMILIES STICK TOGETHER** by Bill Butterworth; (Fleming H. Revell, 125 pp., \$4.95) Family life is like peanut butter, maintains this author. It can be smooth or crunchy. Peanut butter sticks to anything it touches. And sticking together is a really important thing about family life. Butterworth and his wife, Rhonda, have four children, Joy, Jesse, Jeffrey, and John. This father's hilarious way with words makes for good reading. As Chuck Swindoll says in the introduction, Butterworth might one day "give Bombeck a run for her money." He contrasts idealistic notions of what family life should be with the real world. At the same time, he offers practical encouragement for coping with the challenges of parenthood. On the serious side, he shows that quality time spent with children is valuable and not replaceable. — AWM

Anderson, Robert C., *The Effective Pastor*; Chicago, Ill.; Moody, pp. 367,

\$11.97

The author is chairman of the Department of Pastoral Ministry at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, Portland, Ore. The book contains much material that simply duplicates that found in other books on this subject.

It is divided into four sections. They are: The Pastoral Role, The Pastor's Relationships, The Pastoral Tasks, and The Pastor's Administrative

Task's. In each section the author deals with subjects relevant to those themes.

Although I greatly enjoyed reading the book, it broke very little "new ground" in dealing with this subject. If a pastor does not have a book of this type in his library he might consider purchasing this one. Those who do will find very little new information in this volume. — Reviewed by Gregory E. Potts, pastor, Bluff Springs, Magnolia.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sept. 7    | Single Adult Day (CAC Emphasis)  |
| Sept. 8    | Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m. FBC, Coldwater/FBC, Greenwood/Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (BRO)       |
| Sept. 8-11 | Continuing Witness Training; Broadmoor BC, Jackson; 2 p.m., 8th-Noon, 11th (EVAN)                              |
| Sept. 9    | Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m. FBC, Starkville/Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson/FBC, Meridian (BRO) |
| Sept. 11   | Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m. Easthaven BC, Brookhaven/FBC, Hattiesburg/FBC, Gulfport (BRO)   |
| Sept. 13   | Missions Conference; Camp Garaywa; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (CoMi/WMU/BRO)  |

## Mrs. Auber Wilds dies at 96

Mrs. Auber J. Wilds, age 96, died August 31 in Michigan at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lucy Carleton Marston. She was the widow of Auber J. Wilds, a former director of the Department of Church Training, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilds lived in Oxford before his death. The funeral will be at First Church, Oxford, Friday, Sept. 5, at 1:30 p.m. Wayne Coleman, a former pastor at Oxford, will officiate.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Marston and Mrs. Mary D. Winter, of Edmond, Okla.; nine grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren.

## Old Fashion Camp Meeting

September 7th-10th

7 p.m.

## Van Winkle Baptist Church

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Rev. Davis Odom      Dr. Jerry Passmore  
Dr. Earl Kelly

Singing By

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# RAs learn about and do missions at National Ambassador Congress

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Some 1,400 Royal Ambassadors from 26 states both learned about and did missions during the 7th National Pioneer

Royal Ambassador Congress Aug. 4-7.

The Congress, which had a theme of "Dare To Care," featured studies

about world missions, athletic competitions which raised \$6,600 for world hunger relief, and mission action projects in the Memphis area. The Congress, for high school age young men, was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission.

The mission action projects helped needy and elderly people at more than two dozen sites around Memphis. One team passed out Scripture portions in a Memphis neighborhood.

Eight missionaries representing SBC's Foreign and Home Mission Boards gave testimonies during daily plenary sessions. The worship leader for each of these services was Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss.

The Royal Ambassadors were entertained by Yazoo City comedian Jerry Clower, world yo-yo champion Bunny Martin, and AAU champion power lifter Paul Wrenn. Music was provided by the group Truth; pianist Ken Medema; and vocal soloists Gelene Ayers, Angie Lewis, and Terri Lynn.

The closing session featured challenges by James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission and James Irwin. Irwin, the Apollo 15 astronaut who survived a serious heart attack earlier this summer, told his youthful audience, "I was dead but now I'm alive because of another miracle of God," adding, "My prayer for each of you is you'll have a strong heart for Jesus Christ to serve him."

Smith reported Royal Ambassadors have raised \$70,000 to date to purchase goats for the hungry in Bangladesh. Smith then challenged the Pioneers to provide friendship kits as a witness to merchant sailors at U.S. seaports. Smith said this is one way Pioneers could answer the question "What does God want to do with you when you get back home?"

A national Pioneer Royal Ambassador Congress is conducted every six years by the SBC Brotherhood Commission. This year's congress chairman was Rusty Griffin, director of the commission's children and youth department and a former Mississippi Brotherhood staffer.

## USM football on ACTS 14

JACKSON — Beginning Monday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m., full-game replays of University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagle football will become a part of ACTS 14's program line-up in Jackson.

Local ACTS Manager, Steve Guidry, adds: "I believe we've got a program here that people will watch. And so do our advertisers. It's the easiest sell

I've had all year. Since we're a cable network, many people don't realize that we carry local and regional programs. But that's what ACTS is all about: local programs, for local viewers — er, fans!"

ACTS is the American Christian Television System and can be seen in Jackson on Capitol Cablevision's Channel 14.



From left, Raymond Roberts, Michael Andrews, Chris Roberts and George Bristow of First Baptist Church, Byhalia, were among 1500 Baptist young men from across the nation who gathered in Memphis, Tenn., for the seventh National Pioneer Royal Ambassador Congress. The four Mississippians participated in a missions project at the St. Peter's Children's Home during the four-day meeting. Brotherhood Commission photo by Bill Bangham.



RAs of Woodland Church (Chickasaw) attended the 7th annual National Royal Ambassador Congress in Memphis, Aug. 4-Aug. 7. The meeting was held in the Cook Convention Center.

Pictured are (left to right) back row, John Dandy, and Danny Holland, pastor. Front row, Billy Conner, Matt Wilson, and Boyd Walker.

## Staff Changes

Locust Street Church, (Pike) has called Douglas (Rusty) Curbow as minister of music.

Curbow, originally from Tupelo, is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He is currently attending New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife, Rachel, were on the field August 17. Glenn Kelly is pastor.

Bob Rogers has resigned from Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee (Covington) to begin full-time work on a doctor of theology degree at New Orleans Seminary. He is available for supply, interim or part-time pastorate. Rogers may be contacted at 5700 St. Anthony, Apt. 113, New Orleans, La. 70122, or phone (504) 288-3556.

J. Carrol Farmer, native of Jackson, has resigned as minister of education at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.



Farmer

He has accepted the same position with Amite Church, Denham Springs, La. Farmer is married to the former Patricia Herrington, also of Jackson, and they have two children, Lacey and Justin.

Brian D. White is serving as minister of education and activities for Calvary Church, Wayne County. White moved from Austell, Ga. August 11. Doug Broome is pastor.

Bob Shuttleworth, for the past 10 years minister of music-youth at Raymond Church, Raymond has resigned and moved to Jackson, Tenn. where he will be on the teaching staff of Union University.

The Shuttleworths were feted with a "Farewell Fellowship" August 17 at which time the church presented them a silver service and a cash gift.

Eddie Myers was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by Oakvale Church, Oakvale. He is enrolled in New Orleans Seminary and is available for supply work. Call 736-8847 or write him at Rt. 1 Box 1, Oakvale, MS 39556. David DeWease is pastor.

West End Church, West Point, has called Jimmy Carr as pastor.

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Package rates not available Dec. 26-Jan. 1.



# Edmond ministers grapple with P. O. tragedy

By Bob E. Matthews and Norman Jameson

EDMOND, Okla. (BP) — Tears and prayers replaced text and pat answers when Edmond, Okla., ministers grappled with the overwhelming tragedy of the worst mass killing in Oklahoma history Aug. 20.

"We all just had a feeling of helplessness," said John Mark Benson, minister of music at Henderson Hills Baptist Church and first minister on the scene.

Benson stood just 30 feet behind police as they waited to enter Edmond's post office where 14 postal workers died at the hand of fellow employee Pat Sherrill. He had heard on his car radio that an incident was in progress at the post office. He knew four of Henderson Hills' members worked there.

He looked for John Scisers, assis-

tant postmaster, who arrived later than usual and missed the carnage. Benson found Jerry Reed, who escaped unhurt but was visibly shaken. "I shook his hand and told him over and over that the Lord spared him," Benson recalled.

The only thing Benson says he learned is that "nobody had a pat answer for times like these. I just shared God's love with the workers standing there and reminded them that things like this are not made to happen by God, but he allows them for the good of his people. I know some good can come out of this."

There were no pat answers and Edmond's ministers did not reach for any. Their ministry was one of "presence and prayers" said Emmanuel Baptist Church Pastor Johnny Meador.

"There were no words of outstanding wisdom," Meador said. "They just don't come at times like that. The prayers we had with them were probably the most valuable things those families could get. Without exception, every person I ministered to could handle it easier after prayer. Some were quite hysterical until they prayed. Then they realized God was in control and the world hadn't gone out of whack despite this tragedy."

The slaying of 14 by Sherrill, who locked them into the workroom and systematically shot them with automatic pistols, was the third-largest massacre in the history of the United States. Sherrill then killed himself.

Officials called Edmond's ministers to the city administration building when they were ready to tell family members who had been killed or in-

jured. Ministers stepped in to be with the next family in line, unless they saw a member of their own church.

Henderson Hills Pastor Mark Hartman, was on vacation, but he was among those who gathered to minister. "I have to deal with the shock of this myself," Hartman said later. "I am cast into two roles — the shock of having one of our members, Betty Jarred, killed and then having to fill the role of comforter to others at the same time."

Hartman added: "You cannot say there is a particular meaning or reason for such a tragedy. I can just say that no matter what the tragedy, God is able to turn the worst into the best for those who know him, and he can give a lasting peace that no tragedy can take away."

Hartman accompanied Leon Jar-

red to receive official notice of his wife's death and later to identify the body through photos. "That's not a time to read the Bible or give pat answers. You hug them and let them cry. You cry with them. There's so much inside them that is exploding you just sit and let them explode and get it out," he said.

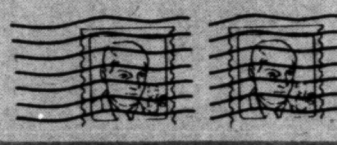
At Jarred's home they talked through Betty Jarred's conversion. She made a profession of faith in her home through a ladies' visitation program. Jarred became a Christian last March as a result of a counseling program Henderson Hills sponsors.

"Leon and I talked about his conversion, about the Bible's teaching on eternity and about what happens when a Christian dies," Hartman said. "This husband is not blaming God, but he is being strengthened by recalling

(Continued on page 8)



## Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

### Divorced minister

Editor:

I've waited to see if the other side of the "Divorced Minister" would surface through the broken heart of an ex-pastor's wife. I believe we have a great truth in "A Wife's Point," Baptist Record, 5/22/86.

I've listened to preachers brag about their dedication to God by stating that God and his church comes before their wives. That may be pride before a fall. The Bible says, "One that ruled well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (I Tim. 3:4-5)."

Many ministers have mistaken loyalty to God as an excuse to neglect their family. They make their wives feel like non-persons. The wife has the right to expect her husband to honor his vows to her as well as to God.

The Bible says bishops/deacons are to live the ideal of God before the lost if they are to represent God (I Tim. 3:7). Any Christian, whether he be preacher, teacher, or deacon who begins to murder, commit adultery, steal, etc., can receive grace and forgiveness from God and people; but he cannot restore the untarnished reputation that he may have had before he fell into sin. He has not lost the opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness and to share with people what sin can do.

On the other hand, he has forever forfeited the ability to hold up God's ideal marriage before men; one man-one woman-for life. Like King David, the consequence of sin can follow us to the grave. One may need a church to make a living, but one does not have to be pastor of a church to preach.

Life experiences are sermons within themselves.

Alvis K. Cooper, pastor  
West Corinth Church  
Corinth

### Youth Night program

Editor:

Recently, I, along with other adults and a wonderful group of youth, attended the youth night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. After several weeks of encouraging and building up the youth night as what (I thought) would be a spiritual enrichment time for our youth, I found myself wanting to apologize for misleading them.

I am referring to the music program (rock concert) performed by Miss Boyce. I am not attacking Miss Boyce or the other young lady who performed. I am not questioning her motive for performing. I am questioning the method.

Actually, I am addressing our leaders in Jackson. What is happening? What is going on when leaders of Mississippi Baptists think it is necessary to bring in such programming to attract the attention of our young people? Why do we have to use gimmicks to exalt Jesus Christ? If sharing Jesus Christ is not enough, then we are in the wrong business.

I realize to relate to young people we have to get on their level in a very real sense. However, we must not compromise the gospel for anyone or anything. I do not believe there is any spiritual uplifting for our youth (or anyone else), and I certainly do not believe it is pleasing unto God to bring the world's way of thinking into our churches, denomination, and state agencies. We are "in the world," but we are not to be "of the world." How can we expect our Mississippi youths to be spiritually minded when it is evident that some of our leaders are so worldly minded.

Ashley Freeman  
Waynesboro

### Youth Night program

Editor:

This past Friday night, I brought a group of youth (12) to Mississippi Baptist Youth night. We have made this a part of our summer youth program ever since I have been the pastor at McCool. But I want to say to you, that if this is the type of program that will be planned in the future, I have no plans to bring back any youth that I pastor.

The "entertainer" who gave a concert during the youth night service was a very big disappointment to me and the chaperone who went with us, and several of our youth said that they were disappointed and wanted to leave. The "entertainer" put on a performance that would have been better suited for a nightclub. She "performed" several numbers in which she literally danced her way through the songs. Now I want you to know that I am not on a "witch hunt." But I did not bring my youth to this conference for entertainment but for them to have the opportunity to worship with other youth and be exposed to good Christian role models. I am sad to say, this did not take place from the platform of the Mississippi Baptist Youth Night program during the concert portion of the evening. Instead of being exposed to a Christian who would be a help to them, I feel that what they experienced was and is going to be a hindrance to their spiritual lives. They can say to me, when I speak to them about this, "Well Bro. Mike, she couldn't have been so bad. The Mississippi Baptist Convention invited her and paid her expenses to get there."

The only reason we did not leave, was so that the youth could hear Richard Jackson speak. I believe that Jackson is a great man of God and that God used him Friday night.

The message of the music we heard Friday night may have been sound, but the way it was presented, in my opinion, did not honor the name of Jesus.

Mike Howell, pastor  
McCool Baptist Church  
McCool

### Thanks for encouragement

Editor:

The family of Dorothy Jeane Estes of Gulfport would like to express its sincere appreciation for the many prayers, calls, and all the loving acts of encouragement and kindness during Dorothy's long illness and most recent death, July 7, 1986.

A special thanks to Dr. Kelly and his staff for the constant encouragement and to the other members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff, pastors, churches, and fellow Christians in Mississippi for their encouragement and acts of love shown to our family.

Jerry Estes, pastor  
New Hope Church  
Gulfport

### Divorced ministers

Editor:

Regarding "divorced ministers," I wonder if people should have considered Ronald Reagan unfit for the presidency of our great country because he was divorced from Jane Wyman. For my part, he is a great president and a man of utmost honor and decency and extremely well qualified to lead our country. To deny him the presidency because he was divorced would have deprived our country of many benefits of a great leader.

Sometimes marriage partners can be cruel, despicable, and ultimately self-centered; and to try to survive a life time with such a partner could ultimately lead to disaster for the partner striving to do right.

A divorced minister might have a greater insight to teach his congregation on avoiding things that lead to divorce, and he might have much to offer in experience that his congregation will benefit from.

Name withheld by request

### Acts Network

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Invitation to life: Crusade service, from Morgan City, LA, with evangelist John Bisagno and music evangelist Larry Black.



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## Clear Creek celebrates 150th year

Clear Creek Church, Lafayette County, celebrated its sesquicentennial Aug. 17, with former pastors Dewey Metts, Roy Marshall, Ken McMillan, and Randall Foxworth in attendance. More than 300 were present for the services and Jack Gunn of the Historical Commission presented the church with a certificate. Pictured from left are Thomas P. Lane, minister of music emeritus, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tn.; J. Edwin Hewlett, Pastor Metro Baptist Church, Rochester N.Y. (he is the grandson of one of the earliest pastors of the church); Jack Gunn executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission; Don Waller, chairman, board of deacons, to whom Gunn made a presentation from the commission; Mrs. Dell Ross, member historical committee; Mrs. Patsy Waller, chairman historical committee; Mrs. Marjorie Shipp Hewlett, member historical committee; and Honorable William L. Waller, former Governor of the State of Mississippi, former member of Clear Creek Church.



## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly  
as a loaded gun.  
Don't take chances  
with your life*

## Psychological effects of drugs

In this issue, Chaplain Joe Stovall continues the discussion on psychological aspects of chemical abuse with Dr. Geary Alford, consulting psychologist for Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

How does a person's use of alcohol or other drugs affect a person's concept of himself?

Most drugs taken even in low doses distort perception to some extent. The person on drugs may see himself in fairly inaccurate ways. A person may feel full of energy and creativity if he takes amphetamines or uses cocaine. These drugs are ones most commonly associated with delusions of grandeur, intelligence, strength, and power. Alcohol is a depressant, and it distorts a person's reasoning capacity and perceptions. Alcohol also lowers anxiety and inhibitions. The person who drinks has such misjudgment about himself that he may attempt to do things that are dangerous or otherwise maladaptive. As a person experiences more and more major problems in life that result from alcohol or drug abuse, he or she often develops greater and greater delusions of a special knowledge, a skill, a power to compensate for the drug-related personal failures.

What happens in regard to a person's emotional maturity when the person is using chemicals?

Usually, the abuse of chemicals impairs normal emotional functions. This is particularly true for the person going through emotional change. The impact of chemicals used by a teenager, for example, is generally going to be even worse than similar abuse by someone in middle age. This is so true because of the relatively rapid growth and development that occur in teenage years, in contrast to middle and later stages of life. It is not uncommon to see patients who were heavy marijuana smokers throughout their teenage years and who are now 25 to 35 years old, but because of their drug histories, these people function like 12 year olds. Heavy use of marijuana seems to produce a kind of emotional retardation. In addition to the effect on normal emotional growth and maturation, abuse of chemicals also disrupts normal emotional behavior. Because of the childlike emotional overreactivity and impulsivity often resulting from drug abuse, drugs are said to impair normal, mature, emotional behavior.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — Delegates to the 50th annual Free Will Baptist national convention authorized a feasibility study to investigate the possibility of organizing an International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists.

Lucille Cannon keeps a Santa Claus doll, gift from a young neighbor, in her living room all year. That's fitting, because it's always Christmas at her house. She never stops giving.

### Lady with a lantern

For instance, she many times nursed the sick, without pay. In 1936 she set her goal to become a nurse. Since Randolph School was not accredited when she studied there, she had no high school diploma. Hence, she took correspondence courses in nursing when she could. While she studied, people were always calling her when somebody got sick. No matter how dark or late the night, she would venture out across the fields and woods with her lantern.

She says, "In the early days I remember going into homes, where I would have to give shots by lantern light, after heating and sterilizing the water to dissolve the tablets over a table light. I also made croup kettles over a lamp and sterilized dressings by baking them in an oven or over a stove." Thus, people began to call her "the lady with the lantern."

At the hospital in Bruce she took 100 hours of courses in simplified nursing. Later she finished 240 hours at the Houston hospital. All the time she was studying in Houston, she was on a case 90 miles away. Friends would drive her to the bus station; she would attend the class, spend the night with some other friends, and return next day to her patient. She also studied in Chicago. After she got her LPN license in 1955, she was for 20 years on the staff of the Calhoun County Hospital, until retirement in 1975.

### Camp volunteer

Besides that, she worked for 30 years at Camp Zion, the camp directed by Percy Ray, pastor at Myrtle. Not only did she give herself during her two weeks of annual vacation and many saved-up holidays; she also gave her vacation money to the camp.

She was supervisor of clean-up which means (she says) "you do the clean up." She added, "Two black women, Susie and Mattie Smith, were my good helpers." Often she would go a week early, to teach VBS in mornings, clean up in afternoons.

The first year after the first dining room was built, they washed dishes in a big homemade tub, square and deep like the ones the laundry used. The weather was hot. One day a young preacher from Texas was by her side washing dishes. She said, "Brother Stanfield, do you know why the disciples wanted Jesus to send the crowd away?"

"Why, Lucille?" he asked.

"They were tired. And we are, too!" Since early days of cooking in the church basement, a third kitchen and dining room and third tabernacle have been built.

One day Brother Ray was talking to her about needing more land for the camp. She asked, "Why don't you buy land next to the church?"

"The owner is asking too much."

Lucille said, "Look, God owns it all.

Nothing is too hard for him. I am going to pray." That night she says she asked the Lord to help, just to let something supernatural happen.

A few weeks later, the land owner went to Ray. He had had his well tested; the water was contaminated, so he would let the camp have the land at discount.

She first heard Percy Ray preach during a tent revival at Piney Grove. She walked a mile and a half from her Papa Jess's house to the meetings and stayed for an all-night prayer meeting. "The power of the Lord was there," she remembers. She then prayed that Ray would come to Bruce to preach in a revival. When he did, he and another preacher, Bilbo Liveley, stayed the whole ten days at Lucille's house.

At Camp Zion, she met my cousin, Vivian Langley, who was the camp secretary for a while. The two became good friends, and worked together in a jail ministry, at New Albany and Pontotoc. Vivian would take her accordion along and play it. "She has been one of my best prayer warriors," says Lucille.

Though Lucille's husband, Drew, was a Nazarene, she says that he was always cooperative and understanding concerning her church work. He went with her to the Pontotoc jail sometimes. Once the jailer refused to let them in. He told them, "If you go in anyhow, you might stay longer than you want to."

"The devil has got power, but God has got more," Lucille asserts. The jailer finally relented and let them in. Drew witnessed to a prisoner, who accepted Christ. The next week the prisoner died.

Some years later, when Vivian was working as a missionary in the Virgin Islands, Lucille visited her. During her stay she gave an island preacher her Bible, and led a 12-year-old girl to Christ and gave her her New Testament.

### Church builder

Another way she has given of herself has been in helping raise money to build churches. The Mt. Comfort Church (Calhoun) had burned in 1943 while the church was disbanded. The congregation reorganized and wanted to rebuild. She wrote me last week, "I spent a happy day on a one horse wagon with a long chicken coop and two women." She had suggested that a chicken drive would bring in some money, so the three women went out to collect chickens.

"The hens would be out, and the people would tell us they didn't know whether they could catch them or not," she remembers. "But Joyce Brown and Alene Collins and I sure could run fast. We never lost a race! We stopped by Mrs. Vara Howell's house, tired and hungry. Her mother gave us an offering and also a good hot meal. I never will forget Granny's good pot liquor and greens, hot egg bread, and peach pie.

"We went into town, the old chicken

coop nearly dragging the ground. The poor mule had a load with the feathered fowls and three big women! We took the chickens to Thomas Beckett's. He said he would give us the market price. He also gave us \$25.00.

We got molasses or anything the people would give. We carried in \$300. It bought all the concrete blocks to build the church.

"Brother L. F. Haire (at Bruce) told them he would

Mrs. Cannon lend me to Mt. Comfort. I joined and stayed until the church was built and paid for. Then I joined Calvary, Bruce, and helped build the church there. Then I joined Myrtle and helped build a new church and camp. Then God led me back to First Church, Bruce."

At First, Bruce, she was Beginner Sunday School teacher and Sunbeam leader 18 years and has been director of the Homebonds for ten years. Every week she shares the Sunday School lesson over the telephone with one person.

### Gifts to individuals

Next week I'll tell about how she has reached out in love to Mexico. One final incident I want to share here to show her giving spirit. It happened in 1942 on a cold, rainy February day. Here is how she tells it:

"A widow, 75, came to my house, crying, saying she had to move out of a little servant house she was living in. She was very sick. Her name was Fennie Shepard. She had no children. I said, 'Aunt Fennie, you sit here by the fire and pray. Where there is a will there is a way. We will ask God to open the way. I went into my kitchen cooking dinner. I could hear her humming. 'Pass me not, oh, gentle Savior.' If I had had a hat on my head it would have flown through the ceiling. Glory came down and flooded my soul.

"When Aunt Fennie left, I went to a cottage prayer meeting, and asked the women to pray. We got out a petition asking others to pray. My husband and I gave her a building lot and we built her a doll house that she was so proud of. She had never owned a home.

"We set a day, and the neighbors came to help. The prayer circle cooked dinner. When the saws and hammers began to ring, I thought, 'Our prayers are answered. Jesus never fails!'

"My husband stayed off the job at Bruce. His boss sent for him. He told him he would return to work when the house was finished. Aunt Fennie lived in the house eight happy years. One morning I found she had made her flight home."

### You can't take it with you

Like Lucille said, "There won't be any U-Hauls to take all our goods to heaven. At the end of this life on earth, all you have left is what you have given away."





# Cameroon death toll includes members of Baptist church

SOUBOUM, Cameroon (BP) — Eighty or more members of a Baptist church in Souboum, a small village near the site of a volcanic eruption of lethal gases from Lake Nios in northwest Cameroon, were among 1,500 persons who died in the disaster Aug. 21.

The church is one of 525 Baptist churches in the country affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Cameroon, a member of the Baptist World Alliance. Working with the English-language convention are 50 missionaries from the North American Baptist Conference based in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill.

The European Baptist Mission also has about 50 missionaries in the country, but in areas to the north and south, according to Max Staubli,

associate general secretary of the mission based in Bad Homburg, West Germany. The mission works with churches in the French-language Baptist Union of Cameroon, also a BWA member.

No Southern Baptist missionaries are stationed in the west African nation.

The Baptist World Alliance has allocated \$5,000 in emergency funds for Cameroon.

About 15 North American Baptist Conference missionaries live within 30 miles of the disaster site.

"Our missionaries have gone into the area and are providing whatever relief and help and comfort they can to the survivors," said Fred Folkerts, associate director of business services for the conference's overseas

department.

The conference also supports two hospitals within 30 miles of the site, one with 225 beds, the other with 90.

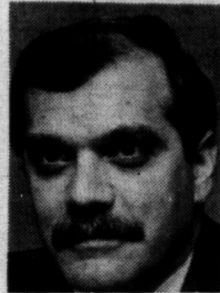
The conference is issuing an appeal for relief offerings to its 375 churches in the United States and Canada. There are 60,000 North American Baptists who support 85 missionaries in five countries. Their missionaries have worked in Cameroon since 1932. The Cameroon Baptist Convention encompasses 40,000 members, Folkerts said.

## —Revival Results—

Faith Memorial, Poplarville: Aug. 10-15; Kenny Peavey, Edna Church, Columbia, evangelist; 17 conversions; three letters moved.

## Calvary sets Singles retreat

A singles' retreat will be sponsored by Calvary Church, Jackson at Twin Lakes Retreat Center, Florence, Sept.



Romeo

He is director, single adult ministries at Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport.

Those interested in attending should call 354-1300, from 8:30-5:00 p.m. for further information.

12-13. The retreat begins with supper at 6:30 p.m. and continues through lunch on Saturday.

Mike Romeo Jr., counselor/instructor, Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, will be the conference leader.

## Charles Culpepper dies at 91

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Charles L. Culpepper Sr., known as the "stackpole" of Taiwan mission work in his day, died of congestive heart failure in San Antonio Aug. 21. He was 91.

The Texas native, who spoke in churches as recently as July, began a 42-year missionary career with his wife, Ola, in 1923. They served first in China, where he participated in the historic Shandong Revival, preached and started churches in the countryside, served as president of two China seminaries and spent seven months under house arrest by Japanese forces early in World War II.

He left mainland China in 1950 and began the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary two years later, when there was only one Chinese Baptist preacher in all of Taiwan. Culpepper was seminary president for 12 years. He retired in 1965. Two of the Culpeppers' three children followed them to Asia as missionaries (the other died as a small child).

Survivors include his wife Ola; two children, Charles L. Culpepper Jr. of San Antonio, recently retired as a missionary to Taiwan, and Mary (Mrs. William L.) Walker, missionary to Japan; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

## Armed men attempt takeover

(continued from page 3)

we hired them we were not aware that some of these men had a background of causing trouble in other places," said McKinley. "They were expecting to come in here and more or less take over. Sometimes that happens to expatriate organizations. It's not necessarily unusual."

In addition to his regular duties as general evangelist and mission chairman, McKinley recently has been driving 50 minutes each way to survey the situation daily at the center.

He plans to use the center to help set up a private duck farm in every district by offering training and supplying ducks. He expects the number of goats will increase from 400 to 800 within the next 10 months. Fish also are being raised there.

# Missionary pilot collides with zebra

By Evelyn Knapp

KYELA, Tanzania (BP) — Pilots are supposed to be airborne. Zebras don't belong on highways.

But when the pilot and the zebra decided on the same overland route, Southern Baptist missionary Cordell Akin became stranded just inside the Tanzania-Kenya border.

This is the plane which was donated to the Foreign Mission Board by Charles Hull of Winona. Akin finally

located a car in a nearby village and convinced the owner to tow his vehicle, which had been badly damaged when the zebra ran out of heavy bush in front of his car.

By the time Akin arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, it was past midnight and the tow rope was barely five feet long after breaking five times during the 90-mile trip.

Last January, in the same area,

Akin had made an emergency landing because of an oil leak. He and the other missionaries with him then flew to Nairobi at treetop level in case they needed to land again.

But Akin has no doubts to which inconvenient trip he prefers. "I'd rather be flying," he admits.

Evelyn Knapp is missionary press representative for Tanzania.

# Edmond ministers grapple with tragedy

(Continued from page 6)

his and Betty's salvation experiences. I saw the real ministry of the comforting of the Holy Spirit and the inner strength that's available."

Ron and Judy Denney and their son had moved to Edmond from Marietta, Ga., only weeks before. They visited First Baptist Church the week before Judy died in the post office. Denney had no questions, but was just "deeply appreciative" when First Baptist Church Pastor Alan Day, former pastor of First Church, McComb, Miss., visited in his home later. "I really needed you," he told Day.

"So he just talked and I just listened," Day said. "What he wanted to talk about was Judy, what a good relationship they had and what a wonderful girl she was. No regrets. No anger. No rejection. He thanked the Lord for their children."

The daughter of member Jerry Pyle had just one question for Day: "Was it God's time for Daddy to go or was this just a big mistake?"

"I told her, 'I believe your daddy was in God's hands, and he is now standing in God's presence. Those kinds of questions don't mean a lot to him right now.' That seemed to comfort her," Day said.

Danny Fisher, pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church, sees the tragedy as something for which there is neither preparation nor explanation.

"This was a time for a recall of your personal ethics and compassion," Fisher said. "This calls more for your presence than your words. You give

the victims and their families your tears and your arms."

Fisher especially was pleased that a well-coordinated ministry network was available through the Edmond ministerial alliance. They had training this spring when a tornado ripped through southwest Edmond, destroying 50 homes.

Fisher went to Oklahoma City's Mercy Hospital immediately after the shooting to check on his postal carrier, Michael Bigler, who was treated for a shoulder wound and released. "Mike's testimony to the news media is consistent with his daily walk with the Lord," he said.

When Tim Richardson, pastor of Waterloo Road Baptist Church, heard the news, he alerted the members to activate a telephone prayer chain. At the post office, he comforted Bill Byer and his family, another postal worker who has attended Waterloo Road's Hispanic fellowship and an older postal worker who was quite shaken. "I asked the older man who was in the family I could call to tell them he was unhurt and then made the call," the pastor said.

Richardson and the pastor of the Edmond Mennonite church were at the city building when District Attorney Robert Macy asked for help in notifying families of the fatalities. "We arranged private rooms for the meetings and found a private exit where the families could avoid the news media," he said.

A city official later told a meeting of the ministers that he "couldn't have

gone throughout the ordeal of notification without the ministers' help."

Richardson praised the city's ministers' efficiency with contact through a city-wide crusade and ministerial alliance activities.

Richardson said grief hit him as he left the city building after five hours of intense ministry. "I drove away and reflected on the people and all that had happened. But I had to go to church and conduct a prayer meeting. I really needed to be ministered to rather than be a minister, and yet our people are not prepared to switch roles," he said, adding he had trouble sleeping the night after the killings.

In addition to the victims' families, the ministers will follow up by offering spiritual counseling to the workers who escaped the gunman's bullets. Mental health workers from the National Organization for Victim Assistance in Washington also have arrived to aid in counseling. Previous experience has shown not only victims' families will need attention, but also those policemen and rescue workers involved in the tragedy.

Day is in favor of ministers handling as much of the counseling as possible because of the spiritual insight they will lend to the bereaved that "professional counselors" may neglect.

Later in his office late Thursday night, Day sat alone reworking Sunday's sermon. "The one I had planned didn't quite fit," he said.

The writers are on the staff of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger.

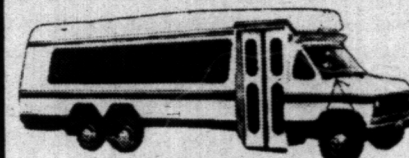
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# Simmons family starts scholarships at MC

A scholarship fund has been established at Mississippi College by the Grady Simmons family of Kosciusko which will assist students from the Kosciusko and Attala County area.

The Grady and Francis Simmons Scholarship Fund was established at the time of Mr. Simmons death in April, 1986, by Mrs. Simmons, her three daughters and son, plus some friends. Mrs. Simmons is a member of First Church, Kosciusko.

The Simmons children involved in the scholarship fund are Sara Simmons Hillman and Lucy Simmons Rushing, both of Clinton; Jane Ellen Simmons Rawdon of Germantown, TN; and Frank Grady Simmons Jr., of Long Beach. All four are graduates of Mississippi College.

Under terms of the scholarship agreement, recipients will be selected by the financial aid officials of Mississippi College.

# Seminary extension classes will be offered this fall

Mississippi Baptist associations will provide ministry education opportunities in several locations again this fall. They will be part of a nationwide network of more than 300 centers affiliated with the Seminary Extension Departments.

Each center offers one or more seminary-type classes on a pre-college or college level for pastors and other persons engaged in some form of ministry.

Associations which have scheduled classes within the past year include: Alcorn, Benton-Tippah Chickasaw, Golden Triangle, Jackson County, Marion County, Monroe County, Pontotoc, Simpson, Smith, Tishomingo, Sharkey-Issaquena, Washington County, Wayne County, and Yalobusha.

For specific details regarding this fall's classes, interested persons

should contact their own director of missions or the associational office in one of these locations.

Seminary Extension courses usually are offered on a weeknight in a local church or the associational office. Course materials are developed by the Seminary Extension Department in cooperation with the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Associations which serve as local sponsors for Seminary Extension centers may choose from more than 60 courses. Courses range from biblical to theological and practical ministry subjects. Seminary-trained pastors from the area most often teach the courses.

Hollis Bryant serves as Seminary Extension consultant on the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

# High Hill Church will celebrate 105th anniversary on Sept. 14

High Hill Church, Philadelphia, will celebrate its 105th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 14. The church was founded in 1881. Eight charter members met on the porch of the Walter Brewer home, which still stands near the church.

Hugh Martin, pastor of Spring Creek Church, Neshoba County, will preach on the anniversary day at the morning service. He is a former High Hill pastor.

Included in the events of the day will be a re-enactment of the charter meeting, with the following persons

representing the charter members; Jimmy Hudson, Mrs. Johnnie Pinter, Mrs. Buzz Mowdy, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gilmore, Edgar M. Brewer, Diana Davidson, and Jerry Arnold. Six of these are descendants of the charter members.

Paul H. Leber Sr. is pastor of the High Hill church. Leber, born in Philadelphia, Pa., retired early, in 1983, and moved to Philadelphia, Miss. Five months later, he was called to be pastor at High Hill. Previously he had served as pastor at Purvis and Moss Point, then in Fort Worth and in Reisterstown, Md.

# 1st, Pascagoula dedicates wing

First Church, Pascagoula, on Sunday, Aug. 3, dedicated a new East Wing addition Sunday, Aug. 3. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was guest speaker for the morning service.

The dedication service that afternoon featured special music by the chancel choir and orchestra, directed by Gary Anglin. Several former members who served on the building committee for this addition and Clark

## Acts Network

Sept. 5 at 5 p.m.

Life Today: Dr. C. K. Chang talks about churches in China and mission work in that country. Wal and Elizabeth Job are seen in a field report on the Australian outback.

Sept. 5 at 10 p.m.

Westbrook Hospital: "That Sorrow Makes Us Wise." Frank and Ann wrestle with pride and bitterness after giving birth to a Down's syndrome child.

# Senior Adult Corner



Mavis Walton, left, was recently baptized at Williamsville Church near Kosciusko by her pastor, Tom McCurley, right. Miss Walton was baptized on July 27, two days after her 85th birthday, July 25. States the pastor: "Since April, following a weekend revival in our church, we have not ceased to have revival. We have had 31 additions." And this is including the 85-year-old Miss Walton.

# Revival Dates

Southside, 800 Raymond Road, Jackson: Sept. 7-10; Perry Neal, full-time evangelism, Montgomery, Ala., evangelist; Jasper Butler, Haughton, La., music evangelist; Donald N. Bozeman, pastor; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., Bible study, 11 a.m., worship, 5:45 p.m., church training and 7 p.m., evening worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

Concord, Dry Creek, (Tippah): Sept. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m., 7:15 p.m.; Bill Baker, pastor, West Ripley, evangelist; Debra Thomas, Ecrú, music; Bill Dowdy, pastor.

# Homecomings

New Prospect, (Lincoln): Sept. 7; Jerry Jackson, pastor; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; Ken Kirk, former pastor, morning speaker; lunch served at noon; afternoon service, 1:15, cemetery business and memorial service; gospel singing by Richard Carroll and the Etheridge Family.

# New Haven to celebrate centennial

New Haven Church, Choctaw County, will celebrate its centennial on Sunday, Sept. 7. Gwin Middleton will speak at the 11 a.m. service.

Dinner will be served on the grounds. In the afternoon, the new sanctuary will be dedicated, according to Don Eaves, pastor.

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## Warren-Yazoo teams build Indiana church

A group of 10 Warren and Yazoo Association volunteers went to Coventry Baptist Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., July 5-12. This pioneer mission was begun in August, 1980 and was organized into a church on Jan. 9, 1983. The pastor, Clarence R. Brock, accepted the leadership in 1981. For most of its six years, the church has been meeting in a public school building. The congregation is anxious that it will be able to offer complete church building and facility to the growing area. There are \$75,000 to \$300,000 homes in every direction around the 10 acre site of the new 9,000 square foot building that includes sanctuary to seat 260, choir, offices, classrooms for a graded Sunday School, kitchen, and fellowship area. The lock and key cost is estimated to be \$300,000. The church membership is 140 with a Sunday School attendance of 75 to 90.

The Warren and Yazoo volunteers arrived on Saturday afternoon, July 5, enjoyed Sunday worship and fellowship with the Coventry Church and began work on Monday. During the week outside walls were raised, all partition studs, and most roof trusses were in place by Friday noon. Lunch and the evening meal were served by church members at the building site under a tent. The local men came out late each afternoon to assist in the construction. This Warren and Yazoo volunteer team was supervised by Ben Suddeth, a retired contractor and member of Eagle Lake Baptist Mission in Warren Association, and Billy Thorpe, also a retired contractor and a member of Benton Baptist Church, Yazoo Association.

Others of the volunteers were: Kenneth Pickens, pastor of Grace, Vicksburg; Jake Shoops, Woodlawn, Vicksburg; John LeMay, Woodlawn, Vicksburg; Lavon Hatten, director of missions, Kenneth Anderson, pastor

of Black Jack, Yazoo; Earl Budlove, pastor of Sartatia, Yazoo; Tommy Bufkin, pastor of Concord, Yazoo and his wife, Sharlene Bufkin.

The group traveled the 1,550 miles round trip in a 33 ft. motor home belonging to Jake Shoops. The cost of travel, food in route, and insurance was provided by receipts of a special Owen Cooper Volunteer Mission Offering taken by churches and also from the associational budgets.

The second volunteer team was from Yazoo and arrived on July 12, led by Bryan Abel, pastor of Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City. Billy Thorpe, a retired contractor who had been with the first team, remained to supervise the construction work of this second team.

During this week the remainder of the trusses were placed, construction of a roof over the hall and office area, and decking the entire roof and securing the roof felt was completed.

Other unfinished work was completed in order to prepare the building for the roof shingles and sheet rock crews that were to arrive during the next two weeks. This coordination of four teams was to get the building completely closed and ready for the finishing and cabinet crew after only 20 working days.

The Yazoo Association team, in addition to Abel and Thorpe, included: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McGinty, Center Ridge, Yazoo; Mr. and Mrs. Paul McGinty, Center Ridge, Yazoo; Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Hayman, First Church, Yazoo; Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Smith, Calvary, Yazoo; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davis, Benton, Yazoo; and Van Foster, Center Ridge, Yazoo.

During 1986 five teams were enlisted that involved 77 volunteers from 16 churches. In addition to these association-sponsored teams, at least three churches planned their own mission volunteer teams.



## Fairview commissions Ann Townsend

Ann Townsend, member of Fairview Church, Columbus, was recently commissioned as a volunteer missionary, to serve for one year in Nairobi, Kenya. Shown presenting her with a Bible is Billy Crossley and Ramona Crigler of the direct missions committee of Fairview. The church also presented her with a check to assist in her work in Kenya. Mickey Dalrymple is pastor of Fairview.

## Names in the News

Emmett Boone will be honored with a reception at Calvary Church, Hattiesburg, Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m., in fellowship hall. He retired as of July 1. Phil Harris is pastor of Calvary Church.



Boone

Boone served Calvary Church as pastor for 17 years, also served as associate pastor. He served Calvary Church, New

Augusta, Sunday afternoons for 4½ years. As interim pastor at First Church, Avery, Boone helped to organize Canaan Church, Avery, and served as interim pastor at Friendship Church, Runnelstown.

Marolyn Ford of Memphis, speaker and author, *These Blind Eyes Now See*, will be guest at McDowell Road Church, Sept. 7. Mrs. Ford will speak to the ladies on prayer at 9:30 a.m., and will give her testimony at 10:30 a.m. Gary W. Rivers is pastor.

## Convention Board meets

(Continued from page 3)

be provided through these facilities for Mississippi Baptists for the kingdom of God."

A few minutes later Rayburn died of a heart attack. The newly constructed lodge is an extension of the ministry of Central Hills and it was built almost entirely by volunteer labor. Crew boss was Joe Herraney who supervised most of the 246 individuals who donated their time.

Volunteers came from 57 churches in 32 associations and six states with Presbyterians and Catholics working alongside the Baptist volunteers.

Total hours of labor was 13,410. Central Hills manager Dan West estimated that at \$7.87 average labor cost per hour, this would amount to a labor donation of \$105,525.

Tanner Riley, minister of music at First Church, Starkville, was music leader for the service.

Others participating included Levon Moore retired director of missions for Attala County; Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department; Dan West, Central Hills manager; Ray Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville; and Hayes Callicutt, Jackson layman.

## Laity urged to use gifts

(Continued from page 3)

"All they had was a call from God, a sanctification from God and a commission from God. Let's stop debating the truth," Hamblin said. "Too often we want to interpret it and put our slant on it, but in so doing we take life out of it."

"Just this week I heard Baptist heresy at Glorieta (Baptist Conference Center). I heard a man say that only a few people have the gift of evangelizing. I don't believe that. I'm convinced the reason people don't evangelize is because they don't want to. There's not that much you have to know (to share the gospel)."

"Christ was sent by God, and he, in turn, sends us. It's time we call all the laity of our churches to witness in the

name of Christ."

Roy Edgemon, director of the church training department of the Sunday School Board, related how lay involvement has resulted in the gospel spreading to countries around the world.

"Because of the outpouring of laymen who responded (providing disaster relief) to the Mexico City earthquake, there are nearly 50 new missions in that capital city tonight. Doors of opportunity are opening around the world for laity to share their faith. The opportunities are unlimited," he said. Mississippi Baptists through their disaster relief ministry participated in that Mexico City disaster work.

Joe Westbury writes for the HMB.

## Acts Network

Sept. 4, at 5 p.m.

Gigglesnort Hotel: "Art Fair Fun." When the hotel guests are asked to enter an art fair, they come up with some wild, wacky entries.

Sept. 4, at 6 p.m.

Lifestyle: Contemporary Christian group "Gabriel" provides inspirational music. The director of the Bulimia Foundation of America talks about eating disorders.

Sept. 5 at 3 p.m.

Encore Theatre: "Wallaby Jim of the Islands," plus Laff Movie, "Fish Feathers." Captain Jim fights to protect his island paradise from greed and avarice.

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## -Just for the Record-



Grace Church, Neshoba Association, had its Acteen Recognition Service, July 20. Five Acteens were recognized for their accomplishments. Pictured are Amy Parker and Kitty Killen, queen regent; Mechelle Willis and Andrea Barrett, queen, and Kim Bridges, queen with scepter. Theme for the program was "His Love Reaching." Attendants were Chasity Akins, Erica Holly, Christin Watkins, Amy Barrett, and Megan Smith. Leaders are Sheri Hazelwood and Lillian Killen.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Learn to pray from Jesus; what better source have we?

By James W. Street  
Matthew 6:1-15

In another place, another disciple introduces the Lord's prayer by recounting that one said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray . . ." He is correct, of course. For what better source can we Christians learn to pray than from Jesus? The request is natural. Others had their prayer manuals, forms, and models. But this Jesus seemed so close to God in his praying that he might have a more effective form, a better model.

Probably for that disciple, as for many of us, the familiar prayers had been routine, repetitious, empty, dreadfully limited. At times all of us have had the sneaking feeling that our repetitions rose no higher than the ceiling. But we do pray and the questions are how, to whom, about what, and the petition is please, teach us to pray.

Well, he said, don't do it like they do it. They

pray on every occasion — especially those that put them in the limelight. The Shema was to be prayed at least four times a day so it was not difficult to position oneself in a very conspicuous place at the appropriate time. Others did it, prayed the Shema, as if it were a bag of asafetida, to ward off the evil spirits. Others did as we do, just mumbling through.

His litany of don'ts continues. Don't assume that effective praying is to be done only in the temple or on a holy day or by special people. Don't feel that praying a long time or with much repetition is particularly helpful. But most of all, he said, don't pray to be seen or heard by man (generic). That is part of the how of praying.

How to pray? Like this, Jesus said: say Abba, Father, Daddy. This notion colors our whole concept of God, our world, and prayer. You may speak to the God who flung it all into place

like he was your dad and he will hear your plea, confession, praise like a good parent hears his child. He is the one to whom we pray.

### LIFE AND WORK

About what? Everything! Pray about everything from the will of God for the universe to what we need for physical life today and spiritual needs of this minute. There is nothing about which we should not pray. Strangely enough "teach us to pray" is in itself a prayer for greater maturity in all of life.

As we learn to pray from Jesus we begin to see prayer as a form of life, a style of being, a shape and contour of identity as the sons and daughters of Abba. It is a form of life in which God is central. We learn that we do not have to control circumstances. We can live in a faith

relationship to the Father that produces a form of life that says "come what may."

You see, the test of praying is not to be found in magic or manipulation to our way of answering our petition, but is to be discovered in the internal maturing of the relationship to God. Prayer is a deed done. It is a reaching out from the midst of our being to join ourselves with God the Father in a free act of involvement.

Prayer is an acting out of our belief that there is meaning in life's mystery and at the same time a confession of the mystery. Prayer is an end in itself; it is not a means to an end.

A book of children's letters to God published a few years ago included this one: "Dear God, Is it O.K. to talk to you when I don't want anything? Love Eric." Of course, it's okay, Eric. Maybe it's better than okay. That may be the final meaning of prayer — just talking to God when you don't want anything.

James Street is pastor, First, Cleveland.

## In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth

By Robert E. Self  
Genesis 1:1, 26 to 2:3

A friend of mine was fond of saying, "Let us begin first of all with number one." In our upcoming study of God and his covenant relationships, we must begin at the beginning.

### I. In the beginning (Genesis 1:1)

It is very difficult for us to imagine a time when there was nothing but God. That is exactly the case prior to creation. In fact, time did not exist before creation. Time is the practice of measuring the existence of something on the basis of the interaction of the universe. When God began his creative activity, time began. He had existed to that point in eternity and was then as now unaffected by what we call time. He was here before time.

The word used here for God is the word "Elohim." The simplest name for God is "El." The letters "im" form the normal plural ending for Hebrew words. Thus, the name for God used here is the plural form. The verb form is the word "bara." Many commentators hold that the word has in it the idea of making something out of nothing. The verb here is in its singular

form.

The use of the plural form for God has to do with both the intensity of who he is as well as the expression of himself in Trinity. This is affirmed by the use of the singular verb form.

### II. He created (Genesis 1:2)

What God began to create, he also was showing his person. There is no real explanation for creation except that because of who God is in his total person, creation must follow. And, he created with purpose. The Bible quickly shows that beauty, love, fellowship, work and communion are but parts of his divine purpose.

God turned chaos into a world of order and meaning. Over that period of time, he set about to create a world of usefulness. During a recent trip to Colorado, I saw a huge statue of a man on a horse. The statue was made with old chrome car bumpers, shaped and joined together. My friend told me about it and concluded by saying that it was not a thing to be used but viewed. When God was in the creation business, he was serious about order and use. He put together a world of incredible usability and indescribable order.

### III. Mankind (Genesis 1:26-30)

The word for man is "Adam" and means mankind in general. The first man was given Adam for his proper name.

### UNIFORM

Among the strongest ideas of creation is the statement that God made man in his own image. What does it mean when we read that we have been created in the image of God? The least that can be said is that God placed within all of mankind through the first man Adam, both a desire and the potential to have communion with him. God made him an intelligent, free moral being, separated from all other life in the capacity to know good and evil and to choose between the two. He was created with potential for communion fellowship.

Let's understand that in terms of our daily living. It means that you can know how wonderful it is to be forgiven and to live in fellowship with him. Every time you pray, you testify that you have been made in the image of God.

Every spiritual desire results from that truth.

### IV. Provisions (Genesis 1:28, 2:3)

#### A. Work and food (vv. 28-30)

God commanded man to tend his creation and to live from it. Two of the great needs for meaning in life is to perform work and to earn one's food. Work and food are provided.

#### B. Rest and worship (1:31, 2:3)

God set aside a day of rest and worship. Again, creation with a purpose considers that man will need to rest from his work and because of the image of God in him, will desire to worship.

#### Conclusion:

A nobleman of ancient days encountered a poor unkempt man on a country road. He immediately began to berate the poor man, saying that he was ugly, dirty, and ignorant. In fact, said he, "There is nothing good about you." The man responded kindly, "Yes, there is one good thing. I have been created in the image of God."

And, so it is.

Robert Self is pastor, First, Brookhaven.

## Joel calls on Israel to open their hearts before God

By Marjean Patterson  
Joel 1:1 - 2:17

"A literary gem" is one of the phrases used to accurately describe the book of Joel. This prophet, who was extremely well-versed in the priesthood, may have lived in Jerusalem. He seemed to have first-hand knowledge about religious practices which went on there.

Joel witnessed a devastating locust attack upon Judah. This disaster was viewed as a judgment from God and Joel set about to call his countrymen to true repentance. Not with an outward ritual but with a rending of their hearts, citizens of Judah must return to God. Only then could they receive God's protection, restoration and blessing.

### I. Plague and drought described (1:1-20)

It would appear from what we read that there had been some combination of great calamities in the country. The people were agricultural, depending largely on the crops and the cattle for their food and their economy. The calamities Joel refers to were so notable they would be talked about for three generations.

A destructive locust plague, which inundated

the land, was followed by a drought which led naturally to famine. In that setting, Joel issued a call to lamentation.

When all these calamities befell the people, Joel the preacher immediately pointed out that this was evidence that God had withdrawn his favor. He called upon Judah to do what any preacher would call upon God's people to do when they are in trouble: turn to God.

Joel called upon the leaders, the preachers, the elders, the church officers to humble themselves before God and seek God's face.

In Joel, one concept comes out strongly: "The day of the Lord." The day of the Lord is a period in which God takes over. The day of the Lord is a time when he moves in to handle the situation.

When God moves in to take over with his people, the first thing he does is to judge them for their sins. On the day of the Lord, his laws will be enforced. Unless repentance quickly came to the land, that day would come on the people as the locusts had come on the land. As the locusts had left nothing, neither would the day of the Lord leave anyone untouched.

### II. The coming of the Lord (2:1-11)

The second chapter of the book of Joel points out that the day of the Lord is great and terrible, and it asks, who can abide it? He expanded his earlier description of the plague as the forerunner of that day. He ordered the priests to alert the city to impending danger. The urgency of the signal was indicated by the response of the people. They were to tremble over "the day of the Lord" because it would be totally destructive and it was near at hand.

### BIBLE BOOK

### III. The call to repentance (2:12-17)

In the midst of a graphic description of the day of the Lord, Joel conveys God's everlasting message of mercy and grace to his people. Then he goes on to call a special church service. The trumpet would sound to begin the meeting. The people would observe a special day, free from work, eating, drinking, and pleasure, in order to observe a holy day.

The entire congregation would be involved in the activities of the day. Verse sixteen indicates

that no exceptions were to be allowed. Then the priests' appeal for God's pity to be shown the people was based on Judah's covenant relationship to God. The fact that he were his people would touch the heart of God.

The tearful plea of the priests would be that God would allow no nations to rule over his people. No greater mockery and embarrassment could come to God's people than for them to be ruled over by heathen nations. What good would come if the Gentile nations were to be able to say, "Where is their God?" What kind of a god is a god who cannot take care of his own people?

#### Conclusion

Joel called upon Israel to face God, to open their hearts before him, and to be honest with him. They should repent and call on God.

Marjean Patterson is executive director, Mississippi WMU.





# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Alexander goes to Jerusalem

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

The camel's bell tinkled as the camel knelt for Alexander to slide off its back. The boy took off his sandals and ran to the rear of the caravan, looking for his younger brother. The sand was hot as it scrunched up between his toes, but it felt good to his feet after a long day on the camel's back.

"Antony! Antony! Oh, there you are! Oh, boy, I want to go to bed quickly so it will hurry up and be tomorrow. I can't wait to see everything in Jerusalem!"

Antony didn't feel tired. He hopped off his camel and gleefully turned a cartwheel. "I'm so glad Father let us come to the Passover this year!"

"I imagine that our camels are tired. I wish we hadn't had to waste so much time in Alexandria because we heard about the bandits. The Passover Week is nearly over now."

The boys followed their big brother Rufus and their father Simon to the door of the inn where they had stopped.

In answer to Simon's knock, the innkeeper opened the heavy oak door just enough for the boys to get a glimpse of his beady black eyes and hooked nose — and just enough for them to get a whiff of savory mutton cooking and to smell loaves of freshly browned bread.

His mouth watering, Alexander licked his lips. "Oh, no! Antony, he's closing the door! And I'm so hungry I could eat a donkey's ear."

"Sir," Simon pleaded, "we have traveled all the way from Cyrene!"

"From Cyrene? Then begone!" The man spat at Simon and slammed the door in his face.

Simon stood for a moment hesitantly, and then knocked again. The door opened, and the innkeeper demanded, "What is it you want now? Too many foreigners in the Holy City. Can't you see you're not welcome?"

"The city is crowded. There is little room. Won't you let us stay just for tonight? Then tomorrow we can look elsewhere for a room." Simon drew a handful of silver coins from his tunic.

Greedily eying the money, the innkeeper reconsidered. "Very well. Just for tonight. You may have the small room at the rear." As he turned to close the door, he mumbled, "But you'd better not be stirring up any trouble like that Galilean Jesus."

A short time later, Alexander lay down in the crowded little room at the rear of the inn. They were so near the stables that he could hear the camels

and cattle moving about and an occasional donkey braying. The moon made a narrow bar of light across his feet as it passed through the only window in the room. He was too full of the day's excitement to sleep.

"Rufus, Rufus —" he called softly. "Shhh, go to sleep."

"Rufus, why didn't that man like us? Why does he serve only Judeans in his old inn?"

"And who is Jesus?" Antony piped up.

"Just a minute. One at a time. First, many Judeans think they are better than any other Jews. They feel that way because their tribe stayed true to the house of David, and the other tribes did not."

Simon sat up, now interested in the boys' conversation. "Jesus is a kind, good man who goes about working miracles. He heals the sick and even brings the dead to life. He teaches his followers to love one another."

"I'd like to see him," and Alexander caught his breath. "Maybe we can find him tomorrow."

"Tell us more," begged Antony.

"I'm afraid I don't know much more to tell," Simon said, "but if we can find Jesus, I would like to hear him speak. Then we could judge for ourselves the kind of person he is."

I have heard that he loves children," Rufus offered. "I heard one of the men in the courtyard tonight say that a few days ago Jesus rode into Jerusalem on an ass while many, many people shouted praises of him, and hundreds of boys and girls threw palm branches before him."

"That sounds good, Rufus, but did you not also hear that the Pharisees and the scribes are calling Jesus an agent of Beelzebub, prince of devils? I fear trouble is brewing in this city," sighed Simon. "But go to sleep now, boys."

The early sunlight trickled through the slit in the wall. The warm rays fell across Alexander's face, teasing him until he opened his eyes. His father and Rufus were already up and getting dressed.

Alexander grabbed a goatskin of water from the corner and held it above Antony's face. Drip! Splash! "Get up, lazybones. Let's go see Jerusalem."

"Hey, quit that!" Antony sat up quickly and dived for his brother's ankles. Laughing, they both rolled across the floor to their father's feet.

"Get dressed for breakfast," Simon commanded.

After breakfast Simon departed to

look for better lodgings for the remainder of the week. Rufus also left to check on the animals, to see that the camels were being properly looked after.

"Alexander, you watch after Antony," Simon advised as he started off. "You two play around here in the courtyard. I'll be back shortly."

The two boys ran gaily outside seeking some new adventure in this world away from home. A flying stone smashed against Alexander's shin, driving the laughter from his lips.

"Ow," he yelled, grabbing one leg and hopping wildly about on the other foot. He ducked his head and heard another stone go singing over it.

"Begone! We won't play with you. Father told us not to play with the foreigners from Cyrene. Vile dogs — that's what he called you."

The owner of the voice threw another rock, this one grazing Antony's shoulder.

Alexander could see a group of boys across the courtyard. He didn't know how many there were. He was so angry he couldn't count. "I'll have you know we're just as good as you are. We're Jews even if we are not Judeans."

More rocks were coming their way. "Owww," screamed Antony. A stone hit his arm, another his thigh. He didn't want to be a coward and run away, but the tears were beginning to slide down his cheeks.

Shielding his head with his arms, Alexander ran to comfort his brother. He turned to shout to his tormentors, "I hate you. Go on and leave us alone. We don't want to play your dirty old game anyway."

Alexander's shouts were lost in the shouting that came from the street just then. A mob had come around the corner screaming, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" A stream of people surged by shouting, "He calls himself the son of God. Blasphemer! Away with Jesus! Crucify him!"

Jesus! Alexander ran to the gate to see what was going on. Antony followed, pushing his curly black hair out of his eyes with a bloody arm and limping along behind his older brother. Standing on tiptoe did no good. They still could not see. So Alexander climbed to the top of the gate. He saw a man carrying a heavy wooden cross. That must be Jesus! Why were they treating him so?

Scrambling down from his perch, Alexander grabbed Antony's hand. "Come on. Let's go, too."

"We can't. We'll get lost. And my leg hurts. No, Alexander, we had better stay here, like Father said."

"Aw, scaredy cat. Come on. Didn't you hear them calling that man Jesus? This is our chance to see him. Let's try to get closer."

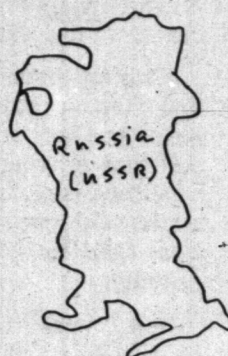
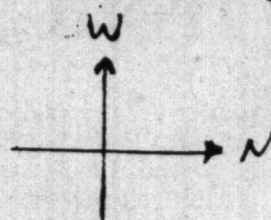
"I see him now," Antony cried. "Blood is running down his cheeks. Somebody has put a hat of thorns on his head, and the thorns are making his head bleed."

"He has fallen. See! The cross was too heavy. I wish I were big enough to go up there and help him carry it."

## GEOGRAFUN: (For young readers)

### Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph Peterson



Rotated map of Russia  
(The bear is a symbol of Russia.)  
Color the bear

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Ralph Peterson, creator of Geografun, may be addressed at 1200 S. Washington St., 627 E, Alexandria, VA 22314.

## Unscramble the names

By Evelyn Keyes

### Disciples

dnAwre  
mesJa  
tePre  
honJ  
lihPip  
udJsa

lohtomweaBr  
dhdaTesua  
moTash  
smaJe  
thtaweM  
moSni

### Other Bible characters

mulaeS  
vaDid  
somnaS  
hNao  
uahsJo  
soMes

uaSl  
jenBmina  
sehpoJ  
cbaJo  
maAd  
rmAbhaa

"They are helping Jesus up. Someone is picking up the cross for him."

"Antony, it's Father! Father is carrying Jesus' cross for him." Both boys forgot their wounds in their joy. Their own father was carrying Jesus' cross for him! They ran, trying to catch up.

The crowds came to a hillside at the edge of the city, and there they stopped. Simon laid the rough cross on the ground. The sun was hot, and perspiration rolled down his forehead. He stepped back when two soldiers moved up and took Jesus' arms roughly.

"Do you see, Antony? Jesus isn't fighting back. He isn't yelling or anything. He seems to love even those who are hurting him!"

"He looks so sad, but he looks kind and good."

"And I don't really care what they say about us being from Cyrene now, do you? I am glad our father carried Jesus' cross for him."

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